

Welcome Fr. Joseph



Immaculate Conception Church is celebrating the addition of our new associate pastor Fr. Joseph Archibong.

Fr. Joseph has been very busy since coming to I.C. and is enjoying meeting all of the families. Fr. Joseph can often be found at the school greeting our students as they arrive in the morning and attending the morning prayers and announcements.

Fr. Joseph has just celebrated his one year anniversary as a priest, and his time at I.C. has involved many firsts, most recently his first "First Communion". Fr. Joseph was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Little Rock, and while he is originally from Nigeria, he will be serving in this diocese as a parish priest for some time.

Fr. Joseph comes from a large family, and has eight brothers and sisters. In addition to Fr. Joseph, the family is also blessed with another priest in the family. His brother was also ordained in the Diocese of Little Rock but has since gone back to Nigeria to serve in his home diocese.

Fr. Joseph loves to garden and is currently growing a wide array of vegetables in the school habitat. From corn to tomatoes and peppers to watermelon the variety is quite extensive. Fr. Joseph hopes that despite all of the rain some of it will appear in the school cafeteria on the salad bar. In addition to gardening, Fr. Joseph enjoys playing soccer and can be found playing in the evening when his duties allow him.



Twenty Five Years Of Educating at I.C.



Parents joined the I.C. faculty and staff at the spring PTO meeting in order to recognize two very special women for their service to I.C. School. Mrs. Susan Schulte and Mrs. Patty O'Brien received special thanks and praise for 25 years of service to our beloved school. While this is not an uncommon occurrence at an I.C. PTO meeting, it is always a reason to celebrate.

Several parents attending the meeting speculated that one of the reasons I.C. School was so successful at retaining teachers was because of the family atmosphere surrounding the I.C. learning community. The pair was first treated to some kind words by their fellow teachers, and then presented with a gift by the PTO President, Mary Llew Anders.

Everyone was invited to stay after the meeting for cake and refreshments. Patty Frala, fourth grade teacher, said, "(Susan's) deep abiding faith in our Lord is evident in all areas of her life, and is one of the many, many qualities that make her a blessing for I.C. School." Ann Cannon, Curriculum Director, referred to Patty O'Brien as "an everlasting fountain of compassion" and an "unwavering model of Christianity". The admiration of and respect for both teachers by their coworkers was extremely



evident through out the night. Principal, Sharon Blentlinger, said that former students always want to pay a visit to Mrs. Schulte when they to I.C. School, and share their favorite expression of Mrs. O'Brien's... "It's not odd, it's God!"

Mrs. O'Brien is the current liturgy coordinator and a religion teacher. She holds a B.A. in elementary education. She and husband, Jim, have two children who both graduated from I.C. School. An interesting fact about Patty is that she was Sharon's very first PTO president.

Mrs. Schulte earned both a B.A. in elementary education and a M.S. in special education. She has taught the learning lab for the last 13 years. Prior to coming to work at I.C., Susan put her degree to good use by setting up special education resource rooms at two local public elementary schools in Van Buren and Fort Smith. She and husband, Mike, have three children, who attended I.C. and three grandchildren. Mrs. Schulte said that I.C. was her "home away from home" and "truly the best school in Fort Smith!"

Congratulations on 25 amazing years of educating young minds at I.C.

Alumni Registration

Are you a graduate of I.C. Elementary School or a parent of an I.C. graduate? We would love to keep in touch. Please complete the form below and send to:

Immaculate Conception School, 223 South 14th, Street Fort Smith, AR 72901
Attention: Alumni Relations

Name (include maiden if changed): _____

Address: _____

Graduation Year: _____ OR

Parent of Graduate: _____ Year of Graduation _____

Sixth Graders Look Back A Time to Reflect

What is one of you favorite memories of I.C.?

Mrs. Hill's Class

The first day of school each year, the excitement I felt entering a new year. Kirstyn Baker

My first day as an IC student. Greyson Beasley

Meeting Emma Cannon. Seth Becker

Second grade field day, showing my best friend around since it was her first year. Sidney Bieker

Finding my new dog Eli on the front steps of school. Emma Cannon

The first time I met Abby. Natalie Curry

After Mrs. Frala returned from being gone, we got root beer floats for being good for the substitute. Jordan Dart

Our sixth grade field trip to Little Rock. Patrick Dougherty and Brandon Taylor

Fourth grade field day. Peyton Drackett

Making pies in third grade. Natalie Fitts

Our trip to the Tulsa zoo. Abby Rector and Cade Baker

Our field trips and making friends. Emma Kate

Knowing that IC was going to be a great school. Max Maestri

Going to Pizza Warehouse in 4th and 5th grade. Will McNally Peter Sayre

My first day of fifth grade, my first year at IC. Zahra Mirzaei

Going to Southside for our fifth grade track meet. Selitha Phonkhomphon

My first day of kindergarten when I didn't want to leave my mom and met Natalie who felt the same way. Abby Underwood

Going to the BOB competition in Conway. Lydia Weidman

Mrs. Smith's Class

Fourth grade trip to Tulsa aquarium and zoo. Lynley Sharum, Bailey Palmer, April Alvarado, Madison Stites, and Andrew Hendricks,

Playing violin for my class. Evan Myrick

Our fifth grade trip to Prairie Grove Battlefield and museum. Alec Bruce

When the hamster got loose during nap time in kindergarten and ran around waking everyone up. Hayden Ellis

Receiving the Covenant Award from my fellow classmates and being presented the award at mass by Fr. Joseph. Kelly Montgomery and Kelly Thomas

Our field trip to Little Rock.

Hannah Maestri & Emmanuel Rodriguez

The end of the year party after fifth grade. Ashley Seiter

When I first started at IC in first grade, the singing in the morning. I wasn't sure what they were singing but it felt good. Carlson Ketcham

Loosing my tooth in second grade.

Hannah Quimbo

Making crafts and my mother keeping all of them. Abby Dahlem

Christian's game winning three pointer against Lavaca. Tanner DeWitt

Meeting a new friend. Adriana Martinez

Earning a medal in track. Sean Franklin

Laughing at lunch so hard milk... Well, it wasn't pretty. Ben Keating

This past festival, our last festival as an IC student. Valentina Martinez

Some Cheese With That Wine



On April 14 the Immaculate Conception School Advancement Committee hosted a wine and cheese social. The event was an opportunity for the board to say thank you to everyone who helped I.C. during this year's annual fund through their donations of time, talent, or treasure.

The donations of time, talent, and treasure are critical to the success of I.C. School and the advancement board wanted to show its appreciation with a casual social. Babysitting was provided for the drop-in reception making it easier for families to enjoy a worry-free evening.

Mrs. Blentlinger and Father Greg were on hand, as well as board members, to thank families for the impact that they make on I.C. We plan to make this an annual event and look forward to seeing you next year.

SCRIP

The Scrip Program is making some changes next year, ones that Mrs. B hopes will not only benefit the school but also the families that participate in the program. After a successful first year, with income of just over \$4,000, it has been decided to allow families using Scrip to use part of the profit towards tuition or fees.

The families using Scrip this year on a regular basis averaged over \$300 profit. A family receiving 50% of that profit would see a much smaller book fee, for example. More information coming soon.

Covenant Award Winners

The sixth grade classes selected their Covenant Award winners for the 2010-2011 school year. The winners represent the students who most often share and model their relationship with God to peers and others by following God's covenant with his faithful.

The winners from Mrs. Hill's class were Lydia Weidman, daughter of Daniel and Kathleen Weidman and Brandon Taylor, son of Anthony and Michelle Taylor. The

winners from Mrs. Smith's class were Kelly Montgomery, daughter of Mark and Christie Montgomery and Kelly Thomas son of Marshall and Kathy Thomas.

Please congratulate these young people on setting such a fine example of living the gospel in their life.

